

Message Text

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14

ACTION EUR-12

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USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

UNCLAS REYKJAVIK 0751

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR MARR IC NATO

SUBJECT: ALLEGATIONS CONCERNING MARINE SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM

REF: REYKJAVIK 699 (NOTAL), 700 (NOTAL), 709 (NOTAL), 719 (NOTAL)

1. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, COMMUNIST-DOMINATED THJODVILJINN, HAS FOR PAST TWO WEEKS BEEN FEATURING ARTICLES ON SUBMARINE CABLE WHICH FOULED TRAWLER OF FISHING BOAT OFF ICELANDIC EAST COAST JUNE 14. THJODVILJINN JULY 2 BEGAN THREE-PART SERIES WHICH IT CLAIMS WILL SHOW "TRUE NATURE" OF THIS "ESPIONAGE OPERATION" AND HOW IT RELATES TO OVERALL NATO OBJECTIVES. IN FIRST ARTICLE, IT WAS ALLEGED THAT CABLES CONNECT UNITED STATES RADAR INSTALLATION AT STOKKSNES IN SOUTHEAST ICELAND WITH STAVANGER, NORWAY AND DIRECTLY WITH UNITED STATES. ATTACHED TO THESE CABLES ARE UNDERWATER UNCLASSIFIED

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LISTENING DEVICES TO MONITOR SOVIET SUBMARINES OPERATING IN

NORTH ATLANTIC. WITHOUT KNOWLEDGE OF ICELANDIC AUTHORITIES, US SHIPS ENTER ICELANDIC WATERS TO LAY AND SERVICE THESE CABLES AND TO ATTACH DEVICES OF TYPE RECENTLY WASHED UP ON ICELANDIC SHORES. QUESTION WAS ASKED WHETHER THESE SHIPS WERE NOT IN FACT PAINTING DESIGNATIONS IN RUSSIAN ON LISTENING DEVICES IN ORDER TO DECEIVE OBSERVERS AS TO ORIGIN.

2. SECOND ARTICLE SAID THAT IN 1971, "MILITARY-MARITIME" PUBLICATION MARINERUNDSCHAU IN FRG HAD PUBLISHED ANALYSIS OF ICELANDIC GOVERNMENTAL POLICIES TOWARDS NATO AND PRESENCE OF US MILITARY IN ICELAND. WAS CLAIMED THIS ARTICLE INCLUDED MAP SHOWING CABLES RUNNING FROM ICELAND TO NORWAY AND NORTH AMERICA AND EXPLANATION OF IMPORTANCE TO NATO OF US SUBMARINE SURVEILLANCE AROUND ICELAND. SAID IT WAS OBVIOUS GERMAN MILITARY HAD PRESSED FRG TO "GO EASY" IN FISHERIES DISPUTE WITH ICELAND BECAUSE OF DANGERS WHICH MIGHT RESULT FOR NATO INTERESTS. SAID IT WAS CLEAR WESTERN POWERS WERE WILLING TO "BRIBE" ICELAND WITH HELP TO OFFSET ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES IF BASE WERE LEFT UNDISTURBED. THESE EFFORTS BY WEST SHOWED VALUE THEY PLACED ON MAINTENANCE OF SYSTEM AND THAT INSTALLATIONS IN ICELAND MUST BE PRIME TARGET FOR NUCLEAR ATTACK IN ANY FUTURE WAR.

3. THJODVILJINN CONCLUDED BY SAYING IT WAS PARTICULARLY NOTEWORTHY THAT ICELANDIC AUTHORITIES AND INSTITUTIONS WERE UNABLE TO GIVE ANY INFORMATION ABOUT THESE CABLES AND THAT THEY ARE NOT MARKED ON NAUTICAL CHARTS. THUS ICELANDIC VESSELS ARE IN DANGER. "AMERICAN AUTHORITIES SEEM TO BE ABLE TO SET UP AN ESPIONAGE SYSTEM IN ICELANDIC WATERS...WITHOUT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY OR THE DEFENSE DIVISION KNOWING ABOUT IT." WHEN THE DEFENSE AGREEMENT WITH THE UNITED STATES WAS REVIEWED LAST YEAR, THE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE OF THE ALTHING, "THE BODY MOST COMPETENT TO DEAL WITH IT," WAS IGNORED AND THE RESULT WAS THAT ICELAND NOW FINDS ITSELF DEEPLY ENMESHED IN ESPIONAGE ACTIVITIES. IRVING

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